

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.
Currently, claims 12-30 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 12-14 and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Leung (U.S. '605) in view of Basco et al (U.S. 2002/0112240, hereinafter "Basco"). Claims 15, 27 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Leung, Basco in view of Penzias (U.S. '738). Claims 16, 23-26 and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Leung, Basco in view of Kikinis (U.S. '410). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Basco was filed in the U.S. Patent Office on November 20, 2001. Accordingly, Basco is only effective as "prior art" as of its November 20, 2001 filing date.

The present application is a national phase filing of International application no. PCT/GB00/00819 designating the U.S. This international application was filed on March 8, 2000 (i.e., before the November 20, 2001 U.S. filing date of Basco). The present application is also entitled to priority rights based on GB application no. 9907464.3 which was filed on March 31, 1999 and EP application no. 99305544.1 which was filed on July 13, 1999. The filing dates of these English language prior applications are thus before the November 20, 2001 filing date of Basco.

Basco is therefore not "prior art" with respect to the present application. It is therefore not believed necessary at this time to discuss the technological deficiencies of this document and hence the combination of this document with Leung, Penzias and/or

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Kikinis. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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